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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

ROBERT H. GIEBELER, DAVID G. OGLE,
ROGER A. KAYE, STEVEN A. MCNERNEY,
GILLIAN M. HUMPHRIES, DEAN G. HAFEMAN
and DOUGLAS N. MODLIN

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Group Art Unit 1743

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For : FLUID DELIVERY AND ANALYSIS SYSTEMS

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be amended as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 0002 with the following amended paragraph:

--This application also is a continuation-in-part of and claims priority from U.S.

Patent Application Serial No. 09/274,792, filed March 23, 1999, which in turn is based upon and claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/096,999, filed August 18, 1998. These priority applications are both incorporated herein by reference.--